ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Eufaula Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Center Ridge Baptist Church, Barbour County, Ala.,

Beginning Tuesday, October 22, 1895.

The next session will be held with Old Mt. Zion Church, Barbour County, Ala., beginning at 11 o'clock, Tuesday, before the fourth Sabbath in October, 1896.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
ALABAMA PRINTING COMPANY.
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ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. G. Bow, D. D.	Eufaula,	Ala.
H. E. Brooks	"	"
A. F. Dix	Pine Grove,	"
G. W. Harrison	Clayton,	"
R Herring	Louisville,	"
W. N. Reeves, D. D.	Eufaula,	"
M. P. Reynolds	Midway,	"
N. C. Underwood	Clayton,	Ala.

OFFICERS.

Rev. N. C. Underwood, Moderator,	Clayton,	Ala
Geo. B. Davis, Clerk,	Eufaula,	"

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE EUFAULA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Association called to order. Devotional Exercises conducted by Moderator.
3. Read Letters and Enroll Delegates.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Application for Membership.
6. Appointment of Committees to report at this session: 1, Religious Exercises; 2, State of the Churches; 3, Finance; 4, Nominations; 5, Baptist Orphans' Home.
7. Receive Correspondents from Associations—Bethel, Centennial, Columbus, Judson, Montgomery, Newton, Selma, Tuskegee, Harris, Columbia and Summer Hill.
8. Receive Agents of Boards and Visitors.
9. Report of Executive Committee.
10. Report on Education.
11. Call for Correspondence.
12. Report on Missions: 1, State Missions; 2, Home Missions; 3, Foreign Missions.
13. Apportionment.
14. Woman's Work.
15. Orphans' Home.
16. Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers.
17. Return Correspondents.
18. Report on Temperance.
19. Report on Ministerial Education.
20. Report on Sabbath Schools.
21. Missionary Sermon.
22. Report on State of the Churches.
23. Report on Bible and Colportage Work.
24. Report on Obituaries.
25. Report on Special Committees.
26. Report on Nominations.
27. Report on Finance Committee.
28. Miscellaneous Business.
29. Final Adjournment.

MINUTES.

CENTER RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH,
October 22, 1895.

1. The forty-second annual session of the Eufaula Baptist Association was held with the Center Ridge Baptist Church, beginning to-day at 10:45 a. m.

2. The introductory sermon was preached by Bro. M. P. Reynolds from Matt. 5:16.

3. Bros. G. L. Comer and B. Davie read the letters from the churches.

4. The names of delegates were enrolled as follows:

DELEGATES.

Bethlehem—C. Gachet, J. G. Sinquefield, Harrel Hobdy, G. W. Little.

Clayton—N. C. Underwood, B. Davie, J. E. Meadow.

Center Ridge—A. B. Barr, W. N. Whittington, J. J. S. Willis, C. B. Gachet.

Cowikee—Not represented.

Enon—Not represented.

Eufaula—J. G. Bow, G. L. Comer, W. N. Reeves, Geo. B. Davis, A. B. Bush.

Evergreen—Jno. Arrington, Jefferson Mims, W. D. Hulen, Jerry Kennedy.

Glennville—Not represented.

Hawkinsville—H. Hawkins.

Midway—M. P. Reynolds, W. C. Jordan, F. C. Hall, L. H. King, A. A. Adams, C. A. Jordan, M. E. Pruett, N. Lewis.

Mt. Olive—Not represented.

Mt. Zion—A. F. Dix, Paul F. Dix, Early Thornton.

Old Mt. Zion—W. E. Harrison, S. N. Cox, R. L. Baker, G. W. Harrell.

Pea Creek—F. M. Grubbs, J. W. Robinson.

Pleasant Hill—Not represented.

Pleasant Grove—C. C. Seay, B. J. Johnson.

Prospect—Page Floyd, W. Baker, W. C. Richards, Geo. Bryan.

Ramah—E. L. Graves, R. R. Gary, J. T. Epperson.

Union—S. A. Blakey, J. E. Fenn, E. W. Watkins.

Adjourned to 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

5. The Association joined in singing "Ye servants of the Lord." Prayer by Bro. G. L. Comer.

6. Bro. N. C. Underwood was elected moderator by acclamation.

7. Bro. Geo. B. Davis was elected clerk by acclamation.

8. On motion the order of business as printed in the minutes of the last Association was adopted.

9. Received correspondents from Associations:

Harris Association—H. R. Schramm.

Pine Barren—W. N. Huckabee.

10. Received Agents of Boards:

Foreign Mission Board—H. R. Schramm.

Alabama Baptist—H. R. Schramm.

State Missions—W. B. Crumpton.

Orphans' Home—J. W. Stewart.

11. The Associational Board's report was read by Dr. J. G. Bow:

REPORT OF MISSION BOARD.

At your last session a Board was appointed, instead of the executive committee, to consist of the pastors and one member from each church.

The Board was organized at Clayton and met November 19th, in Eufaula, to consider the matters referred to them. After investigation and discussion the brethren decided that unaided by the State Board we were not in a condition to undertake independent mission work. Also that the destitution within our bounds was not such as to promise adequate returns for any outlay we might make.

The matter referred to the Board relating to Bro. R. L. Baker was investigated and the brethren decided it was a matter over which as an association we had no jurisdiction.

We adjourned sine die. J. G. Bow, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted.

12. The report on Education was read by Bro. G. L. Comer, and was on motion adopted. Report as follows:

We, your committee on Education, beg leave to report as follows:

In these enlightened days of the Nineteenth Century there is no one so blind as not to admit the absolute necessity for education in order to obtain the highest success in any department of life. No one can reach the highest success in any pursuit or vocation without being educated for that pursuit or vocation. Recognizing the need for this higher education, universities, colleges and schools have been established in nearly every state in the union, as well as in many of our cities and towns. Most of these educational institutions have been largely endowed by appropriations from the several states and by munificent gifts from private individuals. The legislatures of the several states in making these large appropriations for the support and maintenance of the universities, colleges and common schools of the country recognize the importance of and the great benefit to be derived from the education of all classes and conditions of the people.

Alabama has not been a laggard in this great and beneficent work, but even now, with all of the facilities afforded our people for education, the degree and amount of ignorance existing in our state is truly lamentable. We believe however that the desire for higher education is growing stronger, and it is our earnest desire and hope that the time will soon come when every citizen will submit to any reasonable sacrifice in order that the children of our beloved state may receive, at least, the full benefit of our common schools. And if education is so much to be desired in secular pursuits and in the affairs of state, how much greater ought it to be desired in order to obtain the greatest success and largest results in that noblest of all callings, the ministry of the living God.

An educated ministry is highly desired by all denominations, and the Baptists in Alabama and in the south have done much and accomplished much along this line and in this field.

We live in an extraordinary age and come in contact daily with all kinds of theories of religion and theology, and those who are ordained and set apart to the highest profession, preaching God's word, should be thoroughly equipped in every way possible to meet and overcome all false doctrines, and to search out and speak the truth boldly and understandingly. One of the crying evils of the day is, that men who claim to have been called of God to preach his word, are taking advantage of their high positions and instead of preaching and teaching God's word in its simplicity and purity, are indulging in all kinds of sensational isms, and many other isms thereby tending to bring, if they do not bring, the true religion of our Lord and Master into disrepute and contumely among men.

What our church most needs in these degenerate times, is a ministry thoroughly competent in every way to understand, and teach and maintain the old theology and religion of the fathers, and to be able to confute and break down in the pulpit and out of it, all new theories which may have for their foundations false notions of law and morality. The heart and the moral nature of men should be educated to the very highest degree, and nothing can induce to this end more than the pious, godly, influence of a good Christian home. To this end it is incumbent upon every Christian man and woman to see to it, that the hearts and minds of the children in early life are indoctrinated with the living truths upon which the whole plan of eternal life is based. We cannot lay aside nor shirk this responsibility. It is a duty imposed upon us by our profession and relation, and we cannot fail to discharge it and be held blameless.

We must also recognize the duty resting upon us of giving our time and means to the support of our denominational schools, "The Howard" and "The Judson," in order that they may be maintained upon that higher plane so essential to the development of the noblest principles of our sons and daughters. These institutions are well officered and well managed and are conducted with economy, and there are no places of learning in our state where our boys and girls can be better educated and at less expense, considering the advantages surrounding them.

Let us resolve to meet these duties and responsibilities which rest upon us in a manly way and in the fear of God, resting fully assured that our labor will not be in vain and that our reward will be sure and certain.

G. L. Comer,
Chairman.

Discussed by Bros. G. L. Comer, H. R. Schramm.

13. The following committees were appointed by the Moderator:

Religious Exercises—Delegates of the Center Ridge Church and Bros. Bryan and Hall.

Finance—J. E. Meadows, J. E. Fenn, A. B. Bush.

State of the Churches—W. C. Jordan, J. G. Sinquefield, H. Hawkins.

Nominations—J. J. S. Willis, G. W. Little, E. L. Graves, S. A. Blakey, Jno. Arrington.

14. On motion the subject of Missions was made the special order of business to-morrow at 2 p. m.

15. The following committee were appointed on apportionment: G. L. Comer, B. Davie, John Milner, M. E. Pruett, W. Baker.

16. Bro. J. G. Bow read the report on Woman's Work, which was, on motion, adopted.

Report as follows:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Woman needs no eulogy from us, yet we would give due honor to those women who labor with us in the gospel.

In our Sunday Schools, prayer meetings, church work, visiting the sick and relieving the suffering, she is the messenger of mercy.

According to her means and opportunities she does more for Christ and humanity than man. Through this medium I appeal to the good women in every church in Eufaula association to at once organize a Mission Society and by earnest, consecrated labor help to send the gospel to the perishing.

So far as we have been able to obtain report of the work in this association this year, there are not more than four societies in existence—Eufaula, Midway, Clayton and Ramah. There was a Ladies' Aid in Center Ridge, which contributed to the work.

Eufaula society gave $58.50, Midway $66 26, Clayton $15.30, Ramah $15.37, Center Ridge $8.00. Total $163 43.

Pastors, deacons, Christian women, we appeal to you all to make the best use of this efficient aid in developing the spirit of missions in our churches, and swelling our meager contributions to this Christ-given work. I suggest you organize a Mission band and make it the Committee on Missions in the church. J. G. Bow.

Discussed by J. G. Bow, A. F. Dix, W. N. Reeves, H. Hawkins, G. L. Comer, H. R. Schramm, M. E. Pruett, N. C. Underwood.

17. Your committee on Religious Exercises beg to report as follows:

Preaching to-night at 7:30 by Rev. A. F. Dix.

Devotional exercises to be conducted at 9 a. m. by Bro. G. L. Comer.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Bro. W. N. Reeves.

18. On motion the Association adjourned to 9 a. m. to-morrow.

TUESDAY NIGHT.

19. Bro. A. F. Dix preached from Hebrews 2:10.

SECOND DAY.

20. Bro. G. L. Comer conducted the devotional exercises.

21. Minutes read and approved.

22. On motion Bro. Jno. W. Stewart was requested to make a verbal report on the Orphans' Home.

Bro. Stewart made the report.

Discussed by Bros. G. L. Comer, H. R. Schramm, W. C. Jordan.

The following churches subscribed the amounts opposite their names:

Bethlehem	$ 5 00	
Center Ridge	10 00	
Clayton	25 00	
Eufaula	100 00	
Evergreen	5 00	
Hawkinsville	5 00	
Mt. Zion	5 00	
Old Mt. Zion	5 00	
Pleasant Grove	5 00	
Prospect	5 00	
Ramah	10 00	
Union	5 00	
J. J. S. Willis	10 00	
J. N. Hodge	50	
A. M. Moton	5 00	$200 50

A cash collection for Orphans' Home was taken up, amounting to $20.25.

23. On motion, any brother who may be present at any Association is authorized to represent us.

24. The report on Aged and Infirm Ministers was read by Bro. A. F. Dix.

On motion, the report was adopted.

Report as follows:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

According to the best information your committee can obtain, there are within the bounds of this Association no aged or infirm ministers or the families of such in need of our aid.

Respectfully submitted,

A. F. Dix,
Chairman.

25. On motion, adjourned to 1:30 p. m. to hear Bro. W. N. Reeves preach.

26. Bro. W. N. Reeves preached from Mark 6:46,47.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

27. The Association was called to order by the Moderator.

Prayer by Bro. Stewart.

28. The report on Orphans' Home was read.

Report as follows:

THE LOUISE SHORT BAPTIST WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOME OF ALABAMA.

Our Orphanage is now permanently located at Evergreen. The first steps toward its establishment were taken by Mrs. Woodson, when five years ago she gave to the Baptists of Alabama certain valuable property for the maintenance of a Baptist Widows' and Orphans' Home. This good sister has turned over to us all of her real estate, worth several thousand dollars, to be used after her death for this great purpose, except the Florida property, which she has given for immediate use.

The Home was not actually started, however, till two years ago, when in a small rented house it was opened, on the 10th day of March, with three inmates.

We have received into the home 48 children, of whom 24 are girls and 24 are boys, and have sent out by adoption 11, and 2 by apprenticeship.

The boys are taught to do farm work, and the girls do various kinds of house work.

The older children attend school at the Academy, and the younger ones are taught in the Home. They attend Sunday School and church, and Sunday afternoon they engage in singing and reciting scripture. Seven of the children have been baptized. These have organized a child's prayer meeting, in which they themselves lead.

In November, 1893, to make room for our large and growing family, a permanent home was purchased, consisting of the Y. M. Rabb place, eighty acres of land lying on Main street, with a substantial brick residence with ten rooms. Money is greatly needed to improve this property so as to add four more dormitories, a dining room and kitchen, and a school room. The property was bought for $5,000, to be paid in three annual installments, with interest on the deferred payments. The first was paid when due. The second, amounting to about $1,800, was due January 1st, 1895, on which a balance of $273 is still due.

The third and last payment, amounting to about $1,930, will be due January 1st, 1896.

Let every Baptist church, every friend of the Home, and every one who wishes these poor children well, send something to aid in making this last payment.

The current expenses of the Home are about $200 per month.

"The righteous considereth the cause of the poor." (Prov. 29:7.)

G. W. Hollinsworth.

On motion the report was adopted.

29. The report on Temperance was read by Bro. R. Herring.

Report as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, have had under consideration and investigation the use of ardent spirit, as a beverage, and are of opinion that alcohol in no form should ever be used as such for the following reasons, to-wit: That when drank as a beverage it creates a thirst for drink, leads to drunkenness, degradation and ruin, causes men to waste their money, neglect their families; makes widows and orphans, gives employment to lawyers, crowds our courts with crimes, fills our prisons and provides criminals for the gallows. Notwithstanding all of this, we find that the government has licensed two hundred and fifty-three fruit distilleries during the present year in the state of Alabama, some of which are in prohibition communities. Expedient after expedient has been resorted to by the advocates of temperance. High licence has been a failure in most instances. Prohibition has in many instances failed to prohibit. But your committee with thankful hearts to Almighty God are prepared to say that where moral influence has been properly exerted there has not been a single failure, the moderate drinker has left off his glass of toddy, the inebriate has been reclaimed. The bar rooms have disappeared, the peace of communities have been restored and homes made happy. Moral influence has but just begun her work. When properly exerted, the bar room and drunkenness will be things of the past. In conclusion, we say to one and all, preach temperance, practice temperance, live temperate, abstain from every appearance of the evil of intemperance, and may the Lord save our youth from the influence of alcohol. Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

R. Herring,
Chairman.

Discussed by Bro. H. R. Schramm.

30. The report on State, Home and Foreign Missions were read by Bros. W. C. Jordan, J. J. S. Willis and M. P. Reynolds.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

During the last twenty years one of the objects fostered by this Association has been State Missions. The management has been committed to the State Board of Missions, located formerly at Selma, at present at Montgom-

ery. This board, however, has had much else to attend to, for it has been, or at least is now almost the sole intermediary agent through which her varied Christian labors are performed. Such interest in the cause has been awakened by this board, mainly through her efficient secretary, that the average contribution passing through his hands for the last five years has been about twenty thousand five hundred dollars, ($20 500) Of this sum an average of about eight thousand dollars ($8,000) has been appropriated annually to State Missions. By these means from forty to fifty missionaries and colporters have been employed. For the results of the labors performed you are referred to the annual reports of the secretary. We need not dwell upon them, for the Lord always blesses faithful service. The question before us is in regard to the prosecution of this work, and to what extent.

Large portions of our state are destitute of the preaching of the gospel; the authority of the great commission ought, therefore, to settle the question of the continuance of the work begun. To decide, however, the extent to which this work should be prosecuted, there are considerations of weighty import, arising out of the rapid development of our state, in the four great departments of agriculture, mining, manufacture and commerce, appealing not only to Christian obligation, but to patriotism, humanity, and the instinct of self-preservation.

The development of these industries is crowding our cities and overspreading our rural districts with a population at once irreligious and anarchical, for the transition from Roman Catholic domination to evangelical self-rule is with very many people through a region of atheistic infidelity, barren of law, both human and divine. This paper, however, can merely allude to these considerations, leaving it to the discussion which should follow, to elaborate the argument, and enforce the duty of greatly multiplied labors in the state mission work, and contributions largely augmented.

A department of State Missions hitherto receiving little attention, but, it seems to your committee of great practical and ethical importance, is the work among the negroes. The abandonment of the negro churches to the formative power and influence, as respects purity of life and doctrine, of uninstructed ministers of their own choice; is, to say the least, of doubtful morality on the part of those who know of the present state of teaching and morals in those churches and among their ministers. There are honorable exceptions, no doubt, who will appreciate and welcome the effort to instruct and purify.

Probably no better method can be suggested than that already employed to a very limited extent, viz., of holding institutes of instruction for ministers and deacons, in which the New Testament morality shall be inculcated as well as its theology.

The magnitude, and vital importance, the manifold nature, and embarrassments incident thereto, of the work of the state board of missions, and the zeal and energy which characterize its members, should commend them to our love, our prayers, and our increased financial support.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. C. JORDAN,
Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

It is gratifying to note the progress attained all along the line of missionary operations during the last year, and especially in this department of the work, notwithstanding the stringency of the times that we were passing through, the report on this work which was made to the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention, shows that the cash receipts were the largest in the history of the convention for any single year, save the centennial year.

The home board had under appointment and in active service during the last preceding year, four hundred and twenty-five missionaries on the field, distributed as follows: In Alabama 1, Arkansas 40, Cuba 24, District of Columbia 5, Florida 45, Georgia 4, Indian Territory 7, Kentucky 15, Louisiana 24, Maryland 4, Missouri 8, Mississippi 21, North Carolina 5, Oklahoma 13, Tennessee 40, Texas 105, Virginia 1, Western Arkansas and Indian Teritory 50, Western North Carolina 11, and West Virginia 2, who performed 11,466 weeks of labor and received by baptism and letters 11,334 members. The amount of cash received by the board for the year was $88,640.20, being an increase over the preceding year of $15,319.29.

While the increase in laborers was about 12 per cent and cash about 20 per cent, the increase in baptisms was 32 per cent. In this partial summary of the results of the work on this field, we get an idea of the results that are being achieved by this second grand division of our missionary operations.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. S. Willis,
Chairman Com.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Foreign Missions, beg leave to submit the following:

In the various reports from the different fields we find that during the past year God has signally blessed our missionary labors in the foreign fields. We see that a greater interest in missions, both at home and abroad, has been awakened in the hearts of the people. More money has been contributed and numerous baptisms have been reported in foreign fields.

Some of the foreign fields are calling for the Gospel.

Japan has been opened up as no other nation ever has for the reception of the Gospel.

In Italy we are also making progress. There we have seventeen churches and we have chapels in Rome, Florence, Venice and other cities, and towns in Italy, proper, and a promising work in the island of Sicily.

From Africa comes the cry "Send us men to teach out of the Book you call God's mouth."

We know that our missionaries in Mexico are going forward in their fight against "Roman Catholicism" and that the "Truth" is making progress.

Our duty to this country is very obvious. She is near to our own doors and she guarantees protection to those who bring the Truth. Her ignorance of the Bible, her many forms of idolatry and the slavish chains which Roman Catholicism has bound about her, all call to us for the gospel liberty.

The missionaries in Brazil report that abundant blessings are falling upon that field. Then they tell us that religion is being discussed and the Bible read as never before. Crowds gather to hear the gospel, and delight the hearts of the ministers by their earnest and respectful attention. In that country, recently a priest from Rome was converted and is now a loving and lovable consecrated servant of Christ, and he rejoices the hearts of the people by his earnest and eloquent preaching.

The fields, truly, now are white to the harvest, and the active laborers are few, but many consecrated men and women are ready to go and only need the means.

The great need of the "Board" now is that the churches adopt the plan of systematic giving.

The working system of the board now is excellent. Dr. Willingham reports that 92 cents out of each $1.00 reaches the missionaries in the foreign fields.

We earnestly recommend the churches to give liberally, systematicaly and prayerfully. The debt of the board has been greatly reduced during the past year, and we have much for which to thank God and now let us go forward.

M. P. Reynolds,
B. F. Gary,
J. D. Godwin.

Discussed by W. B. Crumpton, H. R. Schramm, B. Davie, H. Hawkins.

On motion the report was adopted.

31. The following standing committees were appointed to report at the next session:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Obituaries—R L. Baker, Jno. Arrington, Early Thornton.
Aged and Infirm Ministers—G. W. Little, A. B. Barr, Paul F. Dix.
Temperance—W. N. Reeves, F. M. Grubbs, C. A. Jordan.
Bible and Colportage—M. E. Pruett, C. C. Seay, Geo. Bryan.
Education—B. Davie, E. W. Watkins, Harrel Hobdy.
Sabbath Schools—J. J. S. Willis, S. A. Blakey, W. Baker.
Ministerial Education—H. Hawkins, C. Gachet, W. D. Hulen.
Orphans' Home—W. C. Jordan, W. E. Harrison, J. W. Robertson.
State Missions—E. L. Graves, C. B. Gachet, Jerry Kennedy.
Home Missions—A. F. Dix, N. Lewis, Jefferson Mims.
Foreign Missions—J. G. Bow, L. H. King, W. L. Thornton.
Woman's Work—M. P. Reynolds, A. A. Adams, J. T. Efferson.

32. The discussion on Temperance was resumed by Bro. W. B. Crumpton.

On motion the report was adopted.

33. The report on Ministerial Education was read by Bro. W. N. Reeves. Report as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

In presenting our report on Ministerial Education, we are impressed, first of all, with the magnitude and supreme importance of the subject. In entering upon the contemplation of this vital theme—vital to the defense and support and progress of the Redeemer's Kingdom—we are reminded of the beautiful words of the good Dr. Doddridge, in one of the hymns our fathers used to sing, but which we seem almost to have forgotten in the mad rush for novelty and sensationalism. Speaking of the minister's work, he says:

"'Tis not a cause of small import
The pastor's care demands,
But what might fill an angel's heart,
And filled a Savior's hands."

To preach is to teach, and how can he teach who is himself untaught? The final command of Christ to his disciples, his very last words, were, "Go teach." The disciples had gathered about him on that Mountain of Galilee where Jesus himself had appointed them. The chariot was ready to bear him home to the bosom of his Father. A retinue of angels were waiting to escort him back to the glory which he had with the Father before the world was, and which he had laid aside for man's salvation. But as he bade adieu to the scenes of earth, and while his disciples were gazing at him for the last time, listening for his final farewell, he turns to them and gives them his parting command, in these emphatic and encouraging words, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" He does not stop there, but continues, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," and then adds these words that have filled his followers with courage and hope throughout all the centuries, "And, lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world." These are the words that come ringing back as his chariot is borne away on the wings of the wind.

Yes, the preacher is a teacher. His first and last business is to declare the message of God to men—to tell "the old, old story." And if he is to teach, to teach all nations, to teach grown-up men and women, he must study, must learn,—he himself must be taught.

Paul's command to Timothy, his own son in the gospel, was to study. He says, 2d Tim. 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Again he says: "Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all."

If men in other pursuits and professions need to be educated specially for them, how much more in the ministry. Would you employ a lawyer that had never studied law, or been educated in the legal profession? Would you send for a doctor that had never studied medicine? If you or any member of your family are dangerously sick, would you not seek the best educated physician you could get? Why, then, not have him seek the very best instruction and the highest education possible who comes to you as

your guide and counselor in matters pertaining to your eternal welfare, not as physician of the body, but of the soul? Theology is the highest, grandest, noblest and most difficult of all the sciences, and who would be a teacher should be thoroughly equipped. As Paul says, let him study—give himself wholly to those things that he may be approved of God; and let him continue to apply himself that his profiting may appear to all, that those who listen to his ministry may see and know that he is learning more and more of those simple but subtle and sublime truths that pertain to the soul's eternal welfare.

And never was there an age or a time when a thoroughly educated and consecrated ministry was so imperatively demanded. Error, false philosophy and false doctrine were never before more adroit or more dangerous in their assaults upon the citadel of truth. We must have a ministry that can cope with any foe, that can measure arms with the most skillful antagonist or the most wily agnostic. The sword of the Spirit is of ethereal temper, and nothing cuts so keen as its double edge. But he who goes forth to battle with it must learn the art of defense and attack, how to thrust and parry, or he must go down in the conflict. Study to shew thyself approved unto God. Under his all seeing eye thou art to fight for God and truth and eternity. Immortal souls are the stake for which thou art contending. Shall Corbett and Fitzsimmons train for the brutal arena to fight for paltry gold, and shall he, who enters the lists when heaven and hell are the issues, go in untrained and unprepared? Soldier, arm thee for the fight and let every nerve and sinew tell for ages, tell for truth, tell for God. Here is a field for the highest intellect, for the finest culture—and they are needed, needed now, imperatively demanded in this long, weary, struggling, dreary age of ours.

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time;
In an age or ages telling,
To be living is sublime."

But let us never forget—but the Christian never forgets—and whatever others may do let us Baptists never forget that it is not by might nor by power—not even by intellectual might nor power of eloquence, be it ever so great,—that this work is to be carried on. These are instruments and only instruments. The work, the real work, is carried on by God—by my Spirit, saith the Lord. Then let him who would go forth to win souls, to build up the Redeemer's Kingdom—let him remember and never forget that while he uses the language of Paul and the eloquence of Apollus, it is God that giveth the necessary aid; let him while he would train the intellect with all earnestness and assiduity, let him still more earnestly and assiduously cultivate the heart. We must have educated men in the ministry, we need them and we must have them, or the foes of true religion, the enemies of God and of truth will take the holy ark and carry it away captive. But what we need most of all, first of all and above all, is consecrated men, God-fearing men, whose souls are afire with love of souls and devotion to truth. It is worthy to make eloquent speeches, deliver learned lectures; it is a far different thing to preach the glorious gospel of the ever blessed God.

Isaiah's lips were touched with a live coal from off the altar before he could give utterance to those burning prophecies that have ever made him the evangelical prophet, and so must that same fire touch the lips and soul and heart of him who stands up to speak for God to immortal souls who must forever bask in the glories that blaze and sparkle around the eternal throne, or grope through eternity amid the blackness of darkness of eternal night. In teaching our rising ministers, teach them not only literature and science and art and rhetoric and oratory, but impress upon them that they are to speak as the oracles of God. They are heaven's shepherds calling the lost ones home.

Let us then remember that we are not only to pay or help pay for the education of our young preachers but we are to pray—pray earnestly and with faith for their consecration. We want not only skilled didacticians, but men mighty in prayer. We are not ambitious for apostles of higher criticism, but rather men who can say with the Apostle Paul, neither count I my life dear unto myself so that I might finish my course and the work which thou hast given me.

Alas! alas! if the time should ever come when Baptists cram intellect, having culture rather than piety. Woe betide the day if ever we as a denomination esteem the trained mind rather than the cultivated heart. But let us work for and pray for a ministry with educated intellects and warm sanctified hearts. Let us, as far as in us lies, send them forth thoroughly equipped with all that education and culture and art can give them, workmen that need not to be ashamed and not afraid to meet the wiliest and strongest foe to God and truth, and at the same time with hearts and souls all afire with love to God and Christ, and with a burning, consuming desire for the salvation of immortal souls. Let us do this, and our Zion shall shine forth clear as the sun, fair as the moon and terrible as an army with banners.

In closing we beg to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is our imperative duty—the duty of every Baptist in our Association and in the state of Alabama—to rally to the support of Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. That we should aid them by our contributions and by our patronage, sending them our sons, and last, but most important of all, by our prayers.

W. N. Reeves,
Chairman.

Discussed by M. P. Reynolds, W. N. Reeves, A. F. Dix, W. B. Crumpton.

The Association adjourned until 9 a. m. to-morrow.

Wednesday Night.

Rev. W. B. Crumpton preached the Missionary Sermon from Psalms 2:8.

THIRD DAY.

34. Bro. H. R. Schramm conducted the devotional exercises.

35. The discussion on Ministerial Education was resumed.

On motion, the report was adopted.

36. The report on Sunday Schools was read by Bro. B. Davie. Report as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Out of nineteen churches represented at the last session of the Eufaula Association, only eleven, or one more than half the number, reported Sunday Schools, with a total enrollment of 854, and that about one-half the baptisms were from the Sunday School. These same churches report a total church membership of 1,222. If it be, as we think, a safe assumption that only half the Sunday School enrollment are members of the church, we have good basis for the following deductions:

1st. That, practically, every other church in our Association is doing nothing in this department.

2nd. That two church members in every three, within the bounds of this Association, are withholding their endorsement from this great work.

3rd. That God is wonderfully blessing the efforts of those who are at work.

In regard to the first point deduced, it is almost a stereotyped excuse for the absence, or non-existence, of a Sunday School, that "we had one over there and it started off mighty nice, but went down."

Brother, put your hand on your heart and answer these questions: Are you blameless in the premises? Did you go, rain or shine, heat or cold, and put yourself in position to test the faithfulness of God to his promises? And did you go from your closet, and go with well studied and prepared lessons? And did you know that God's work, in any department, is the one thing in which figures lose their accustomed veracity, and that God is able and will bless out of all proportion, exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think?

Or, in reference to the second deduction, are you one of the two-thirds majority, sleeping away the golden moments of life's little span while the fell destroyer of souls is getting in his baneful work on the childhood and youth of our country? For shame! if such be your status in this great warfare of our King. The fate of a sleeping sentinel is the death penalty. What will it be in the court-martial presided over by the Captain of our salvation!

But to those who are witnessing and experiencing some of the blessed results referred to in the third deduction, we would address our heartiest "God speed," and beg to submit a few suggestions for the work:

1st. We should be punctual. If superintendents, this is necessary in order to prevent the noisy and boisterous behavior of the unorganized scholars and classes prior to opening; if teachers, a better evidence of our sincerity could scarcely be impressed upon our charges.

2nd. We need preparation of head and heart. Some of the best workers of the present day are said to devote eight and ten hours to the study of each lesson, while every Christian worker feels the profound need of that heart preparation which can be carried to his class by no other route than through the sacred precincts of the closet of prayer.

3rd. We need consecration. "No man can serve two masters," and all our work is futile if we are not the daily living exponents of the principles we teach.

4th. We need method. We recommend, under this head, a system of unremitting benevolence. One of the churches reports, to the present session of your body, $66 contributed by a Sunday School, with average attendance of eighty pupils.

We recommend a judicious prize system. Your chairman knows of a Sunday School whose enrollment was, by this means, doubled in one year.

We recommend that superintendents contrive to assign every one, even transient visitors, to classes, where, if unprepared themselves, they may at least hear the lessons recited.

We recommend the public or formal introduction of new scholars, believing that these first impressions under God's blessing may be fraught with eternal issues.

We recommend that teachers furnish their superintendents, each Sunday morning, with a list of the absentees from their respective classes, with notation opposite each name of the cause of absence, so far as can be ascertained.

We recommend that, on bended knees imploring the Spirit's aid and power, we school our hearts to love and care for the immortal souls committed to our training for time and eternity.

Fraternally submitted,

B. Davie.

Discussed by Bros. G. L. Comer, J. G. Bow, A. F. Dix, B. Davie, W. C. Jordan, H. R. Schramm.

The report on Sunday Schools was adopted.

37. The report on the State of the Churches was read by Bro. E. L. Graves. Report as follows:

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

Bethlehem—Spiritual condition normal, small increase in membership.

Clayton—Spiritual condition good, good prayer meeting and Sunday School, increase in contribution.

Center Ridge—Good Sunday School, no prayer meeting, regular services once a month.

Eufaula church—Increased interest in prayer meeting, spiritual condition good, Sunday School interest on decline.

Evergreen—Regular weekly prayer meeting, spiritual condition good.

Glenville church—Had revival during summer, a Sunday School organized, contributions increased.

Hawkinsville church—Spiritual condition normal, no prayer meeting, have Sunday School, contributions good, average seven dollars per capita.

Midway church—Had protracted meeting in August, spiritual condition normal, contributions good, good Sunday School and prayer meetings, moderately well attended.

Mt. Zion—Have preaching once a month, no prayer meeting or Sunday School, had a good meeting a few days this summer, church much revived and sinners converted, contributions increased.

Old Mt. Zion—Good prayer meeting, live Sunday School, protracted meeting this summer which resulted in the addition of eighteen members, spiritual condition good; request the Association to meet with them next year.

Pleasant Hill—No Sunday School or prayer meeting, but little spiritual interest manifested.

Prospect—Spiritual condition very good, Sunday School for eight months; invite the Association to hold their next session with them.

Pea Creek—Have been without pastor this year, have called Bro. John E. Mims for this incoming year, spiritual condition not good.

Ramah—Have Sunday School and good prayer meeting, church in good working order, contributions increased.

Union church—Good Sunday School, church much revived by a protracted meeting held this summer, contributions increased.

Pleasant Grove—Spiritual condition not as good as it has been, no revival; invite the Association to meet with them next year. Have Mission chapel in which we have a most flourishing Sunday School and a weekly prayer meeting, which is well attended.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. C. JORDAN,
H. HAWKINS,
E. L. GRAVES,
Committee.

On motion, the report was adopted.

38. The report on Bible and Colportage Work was read by Bro. H. Hawkins. Report as follows:

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE.

This is one department of the work of the State Board of Missions.

Fourteen missionary colporters were employed the past year in as many Associations.

Besides the sermons preached, the miles traveled, the addresses delivered, etc., these men sold sixteen hundred and eleven books, Bibles and Testaments, valued at $1,075, and distributed 23,566 pages of tracts.

The Board received from the churches, in contributions for this purpose, $325.49, and $175 worth of Bibles and other books from the American Baptist Publication Society and the Sunday School Board of Nashville.

We can not commend too highly the work of distributing Bibles and other religious books, and should be ready with our means to sustain such a cause.

Perhaps there is no better field for this important work than in the Eufaula Association Certainly none with greater possibilities for the accomplishment of good results.

Your committee, therefore, urgently recommends that this Association authorize and empower the Mission Board of this Association to employ a missionary and colporter for this Association, upon such terms and conditions as the Board may deem best for the cause and its work.

Respectfully submitted,

HIRAM HAWKINS,
Ch'n of Committee.

Discussed by Bros. H. Hawkins and H. R. Schramm.

On motion the report was adopted.

39. The report on Obituaries was read and adopted. Report as follows:

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to submit the following report:

God, in his goodness and mercy, has spared to us his servants who are now, and have been, upholding his cause in our bounds during this Associational year. Such demonstrations of his kind providence should be an inspiration to us, and it should stimulate us to greater work in his cause.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. GRAVES,
D. L. MCRAE,
L. W. CADE.

40. On motion the report of Finance Committee was read and ordered spread on the minutes.

Rev. W. H. Huckabee preached from Acts 1.

A collection was taken up for Missions, amounting to $18.12.

41. The report on Nominations was read and adopted. Report as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Representative to Southern Baptist Convention—G. L. Comer; alternate, M. P. Reynolds.

Representatives to State Convention, at Selma—N. C. Underwood, B. Davie, H. Hawkins, M. P. Reynolds, F. C. Hall, Dr. J. G. Bow, D. S. A. Holt, Rev. R. Herring, Rev. G. W. Harrison, A. B. Bush; alternates, W. C. Jordan, J. E. Meadows, Calvin J. Stephens, B. F. Gary, W. N. Whittington.

Associational Board—J. G. Bow, G. W. Harrison, R. Herring, M. P. Reynolds, N. C. Underwood, J. G. Sinquefield, B. Davie, J. J. S. Willis, George Boyer, A. A. Couric, John Arrington, E. C. Perry, H. Hawkins, M. E. Pruett, Rev. A. F. Dix, W. E. Harrison, Wm. Spires, Eugene Blackman, C. A. Cox, Aaron Green, M. L. Vaughn, J. E. Fenn.

To Preach Introductory Sermon—Rev. A. F. Dix; alternate, N. C. Underwood.

Missionary Sermon—J. G. Bow; alternate, M. P. Reynolds.

We recommend that the next session of this body be held with Old Mt. Zion church, 8 miles from Louisville, on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1896, at 11 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. S. Willis,
S. A. Blakey,
E. L. Graves.

42. The following resolutions were unanimously carried:

Resolved, That the warmest thanks of the memb rs of this Association are hereby extended to the citizens of Mt. Andrew and vicinity for the hearty, cheerful and bountiful way in which they have entertained its members and visitors. G. L. Comer.

43. 1. That we earnestly beseech the churches in this Association to at once organize Woman's Mission societies in every church.

2. That we invite them to hold a Woman's Mission meeting next year in connection with the Associations sending delegates from each society.

J. G. Bow.

44. On motion $25.00 of the unappropriated funds be given to Sister Harriet Sims.

45. On motion 600 copies of the minutes were ordered printed.

46. On motion $25.00 was voted the clerk for services.

47. On motion the balance of the unappropriated funds was ordered sent to Bro. W. B. Crumption for missions.

48. Report of Committee on Apportionment:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON APPORTIONMENT.

Your Committee on Apportionment begs leave to submit the following report:

Bethlehem	$ 60 00
Clayton	105 00
Evergreen	12 00
Hawkinsville	20 00
Midway	230 00

Mt. Zion	30 00	
Pleasant Grove	18 00	
Prospect	63 00	
Center Ridge	72 00	
Cowikee	20 00	
Eufaula	400 00	
Glennville	10 00	
Mt. Olive	15 00	
Old Mt. Zion	25 00	
Pea Creek	10 00	
Pleasant Hill	20 00	
Ramah	50 00	
Union	40 00	$1200 00

Respectfully submitted,

G. L. COMER,
Chairman.

49. On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Old Mt. Zion Church, Barbour County, Tuesday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1896.

N. C. UNDERWOOD,
MODERATOR.

GEO. B. DAVIS,
Clerk.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF EUFAULA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

CHURCHES.	State Missions—Cash	State Missions—Voucher	Home Missions—Cash	Home Missions—Voucher	Foreign Missions—Cash	Foreign Missions—Voucher	Church, for Orphan's Home—Cash	Church, for Orphan's Home—Voucher	Home Missions, from Sunday School—Voucher	Foreign Missions, from Sunday School—Voucher	Bible and Colportage—Cash	Bible and Colportage Voucher	Ministerial Education—Cash	Ministerial Education—Voucher	Minutes	Associational Purposes	S. S. Orphans' Home—Cash	S. S. Orphans' Home Voucher	Woman's Society. Orphans' Home—Voucher	Woman's Society. Home Missions—Voucher	Woman's Society. Foreign Missions—Voucher	Woman's Society. State Missions—Voucher	Value of Buildings and Furniture
1 Bethlehem	$ 5 00	$ 7 00	$ 5 00	$ 2 00	$ 5 00	$ 2 00	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$ 1 00	$	$ 2 00	$ 3 00	$ 8 00	$	$	$	$1000 00
2 Clayton		35 24	8 65	3 00		24 50		26 50	10 82	10 83					1 50			4 75	3 10	4 00	4 00	4 00	3200 00
3 Center Ridge		21 24						21 25	6 89						1 50	1 50				8 00			350 00
4 Cowikee																							
5 Enon																							
6 Eufaula	81 85	8 00				161 50									3 35	3 35				35 00	9 00		35000 00
7 Evergreen															1 00								
8 Glennville	1 00	3 00	50	2 50	50	2 50									50								500 00
9 Hawkinsville	2 00				1 00		15 00				5 00				75	2 00							
10 Midway		69 60		51 06		14 25		10 59		7 15		4 66	5 00	1 90	1 00	124 50				10 15	6 15	5 47	1000 00
11 Mt. Olive																							
12 Mt. Zion			14 25		7 00										1 00								
13 Old Mt. Zion									2 85						1 35								120 00
14 Pea Creek			1 00				1 50								1 50								200 00
15 Pleasant Hill							50								1 00	5 25							
16 Pleasant Grove			2 50				4 00								1 50	2 25							300 00
17 Prospect		6 06					5 00	9 10							1 50	22 65							1000 00
18 Ramah	4 35		4 35		4 35	25 17		5 00	11 06						1 50			11 76	7 50				1000 00
19 Union		15 17			2 46		5 00								50	4 00							365 00
Collection							20 25																
Total	$94 20	$165 31	$36 25	$58 56	$20 31	$229 92	$51 25	$72 41	$31 62	$17 98	$ 5 00	$ 4 66	$ 5 00	$ 1 90	$20 45	$ 165 50	$ 2 00	$19 51	$18 60	$57 15	$19 15	$9 47	44033.-

Hat Collection, Missions, $18.12.

J. E. MEADOWS, Ch'n Com.

STATISTICS OF EUFAULA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1895.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by: Baptism	Letter	Relation	Restoration	Decrease by: Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death	Present Membership.	S. S. Officers & Teachers	S. S. Pupils.	S. S. SUPERINTENDENT'S NAME AND P. O. ADDRESS.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
1 Bethlehem	Barbour	J. M. Poiner	M. B. Reynolds	Clayton	118	6		2		4	2		1	119	6	60	J. G. Sinquefield	2	None	Yes
2 Clayton	Barbour	N. C. Underwood	L. H. Perkins	Clayton	143	11	7			8		1	2	150	11	130	B. Davie, Clayton	1 & 3	Yes	Yes
3 Center Ridge	Barbour	M. P. Reynolds	J. J. S. Willis	Mt. Andrew	87	2	3			6			3	83	6	45	J. J. S. Willis, Mt. Andrew	4	None	Yes
4 *Cowikee	Barbour				36									36						
5 *Enon	Bullock				13									13						
6 Eufaula	Barbour	J. G. Bow	George B. Davis	Eufaula	432	25	20	3	1	44	5	34	8	390	17	225	G. L. Comer, Eufaula	Ev'ry	Yes	Yes
7 Evergreen	Barbour	Ira Myer	J. R. Tillery	Boyd	62	2					3			62				4	Yes	Yes
8 Glennville	Russell	W. D. Joiner	E. C. Perry	Glennville	8	1	2							11		32	E. C. Perry, Glennville	2	None	Yes
9 Hawkinsville	Barbour	A. Broome	H Hawkins	Hawkinsville	18		1		1	1			1	18	8	25	S. A. English, Hawkinsville	4	None	None
10 Midway	Bullock	M. P. Reynolds	Geo. R. Hall	James	188	2	2		1	2	1		1	189	14	108	Jno. Milner, Midway	1 & 3	Yes	Yes
11 *Mt. Olive	Barbour				34									34						
12 Mt. Zion	Bullock	A. F. Dix	G. T. Baker	Flora	32	6	7		1	2				44				2	None	Yes
13 Old Mt Zion	Barbour	G. W. Harrison	Ira E. Myers	Zeigler	69	13	11		1	3	1			90	7	49	Ira E. Myers, Zeigler	4	Yes	Yes
14 *Pea Creek	Barbour				36									36						
15 Pleasant Hill	Barbour	W. D. Joiner	I. W. Evans	Jernigan	24					3				21				4	None	None
16 Pleasant Grove	Barbour	B. Broome	C. D. Herbert	Clayton	50					7	1	12		30				2	None	None
17 Prospect	Barbour	J. M. Poiner	T. F. J. Green	Lindsey	130	19				4			1	144	3	30	A. M. Green, Lindsey	4	None	Yes
18 Ramah	Barbour	H. R. Schramm	H. B. Florence	Harris	54	4	1			4	1			54	3	36	E. L. Graves, Harris	4	Yes	Yes
19 Union	Barbour	N. C. Underwood	J. T. Watkins	Clayton	70	1	1			7				65	4	34	J. T. Watkins, Clayton	1	None	Yes
South Side S. S., Eufaula															17	300	C. J. Stephens, Eufaula			
Total					1604	92	55	3	7	95	14	47	17	1589	96	1074				

*Not represented.